ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT

AVENGERS® 13

CIVIL WAR™ II

WAID
KUBERT
OBACK

MARVEL

AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES (OR THE ONES THAT WERE AROUND THAT DAY, ANYWAY) FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT. ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN--TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

NOW CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, THOR, VISION, SPIDER-MAN, MS. MARVEL AND NOVA ARE THE...

ALL-NEW ALL-DIFFERENT AVENGERS

THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY HAS BEEN SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE BY THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES WHO CLAIMS TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE FUTURE--BUT ONE AVENGER HAS MORE PERSONAL PROBLEMS ON HIS MIND.

THE TIME-TRAVELING VILLAIN KANG RECENTLY CORRUPTED THE VISION'S PROGRAMMING AND TURNED HIM AGAINST HIS ALLIES--TWICE. FURIOUS AT BEING USED AS A WEAPON AGAINST HIS WILL, THE VISION DECIDED TO TRACK DOWN KANG AND PUT A STOP TO HIM FOR GOOD.

WRITER: MARK WAID ARTIST: ADAM KUBERT
COLOR ARTIST: SONIA OBACK
LETTERER: VC'S CORY PETIT
COVER ARTIST: ALEX ROSS
VARIANT COVER ARTIST: KRIS ANKA
RECAP PAGE ART BY: MAHMUD ASRAR & DAVE McCAIG

ASSISTANT EDITOR: ALANNA SMITH
EDITOR: TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA
PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY
EXEC. PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

THE AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO DAYS AGO, THE VISION WAS FORCED TO MAKE AN UNPRECEDENTED ALTERATION TO HIS OPERATING SYSTEM.
IT HAD ACCUMULATED A CRIPPLING NUMBER OF HUMAN EMOTIONS WHICH, TO MAINTAIN OS EFFICIENCY, HAD TO BE OFF-LOADED INTO A 128 SAGANBYTE CRYSTAL MATRIX.
SINCE THEN, THE OFF-LOAD HAD BECOME A REGULAR RITUAL. THE VISION WAS, AFTER ALL, MORE SYNTHEZOID THAN COMPUTER--
--AN ORGANIC SIMULACRUM OF A HUMAN, CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT. CAPABLE OF FEELINGS, HOWEVER UNCOMFORTABLE OR UNSETTLING.
HE DID NOT MISS THEM. PARTICULARLY NOT THAT DAY.

NOT ON THE DAY HE CONTEMPLATED THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION OF HIS EXISTENCE.
NOT WHEN THE FATE OF A HUMAN LIFE WAS HIS TO DECIDE.
WHAT WOULD BECOME OF IT, THOUGHT THE VISION, WAS A DECISION THAT MUST BE MADE WITH UTMOST LOGIC.

NOT TOO LONG AGO, THE VISION HAD BATTLED HIS AVENGERS TEAMMATES ALMOST TO A STANDSTILL.

AN ENEMY HAD PLANTED AN OVERRIDE PROGRAM IN MY BRAIN, ALLOWING HIM TO CONTROL ME.

HOW DID YOU ESCAPE THAT CONTROL?

I AM INCLINED, ULYSSES, TO CREDIT MY FREE WILL WITH REASSERTING ITSELF IN A TIME OF CRISIS.

I DON'T GET IT. IF YOU HAVE A COMPUTER MIND GUIDED BY RATIONAL THOUGHT AND PROGRAMMING, HOW DOES "FREE WILL" FACTOR IN AT ALL?

THIS QUESTION IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN THE CENTRAL MYSTERY OF MY EXISTENCE.

I AM CAPABLE OF EMOTIONS THAT SLOWLY BLOSSOM INSIDE OF ME, OFTEN CREATING IMPULSES THAT ARE IN CONFLICT WITH THE DIRECTION IN WHICH COLD FACTS WISH TO TAKE ME.

I STAND FOREVER AT THE CROSSROADS OF MIND AND HEART.

FOR INSTANCE, AT THIS MOMENT, I SEEK YOUR COUNSEL BECAUSE I AM INTERNALLY CONFLICTED REGARDING THE MOST LOGICAL COURSE OF ACTION AGAINST THE MAN WHO CONTROLLED ME.

VISION, I'M ONLY SOMETIMES PRECOGNITIVE, AND I BASICALLY JUST GOT THAT POWER.

HARDLY A SEASONED COMBAT STRATEGIST LIKE YOU-- OR ANY AVENGER.

WHY WOULD MY ADVICE BE VALUABLE?

BECAUSE THE MAN IN QUESTION DOESN'T EXIST YET.

DO YOU...WANT ME TO HELP FIND HIM? BECAUSE THAT'S NOT HOW MY POWERS SEEM TO WORK, AND--

IT IS MORE YOUR INSIGHT THAT IS VALUABLE.

AS A MAN CAPABLE OF HELPING EARTH'S HEROES AVERT CRIMINALS BEFORE THEY COMMIT THEIR CRIMES...

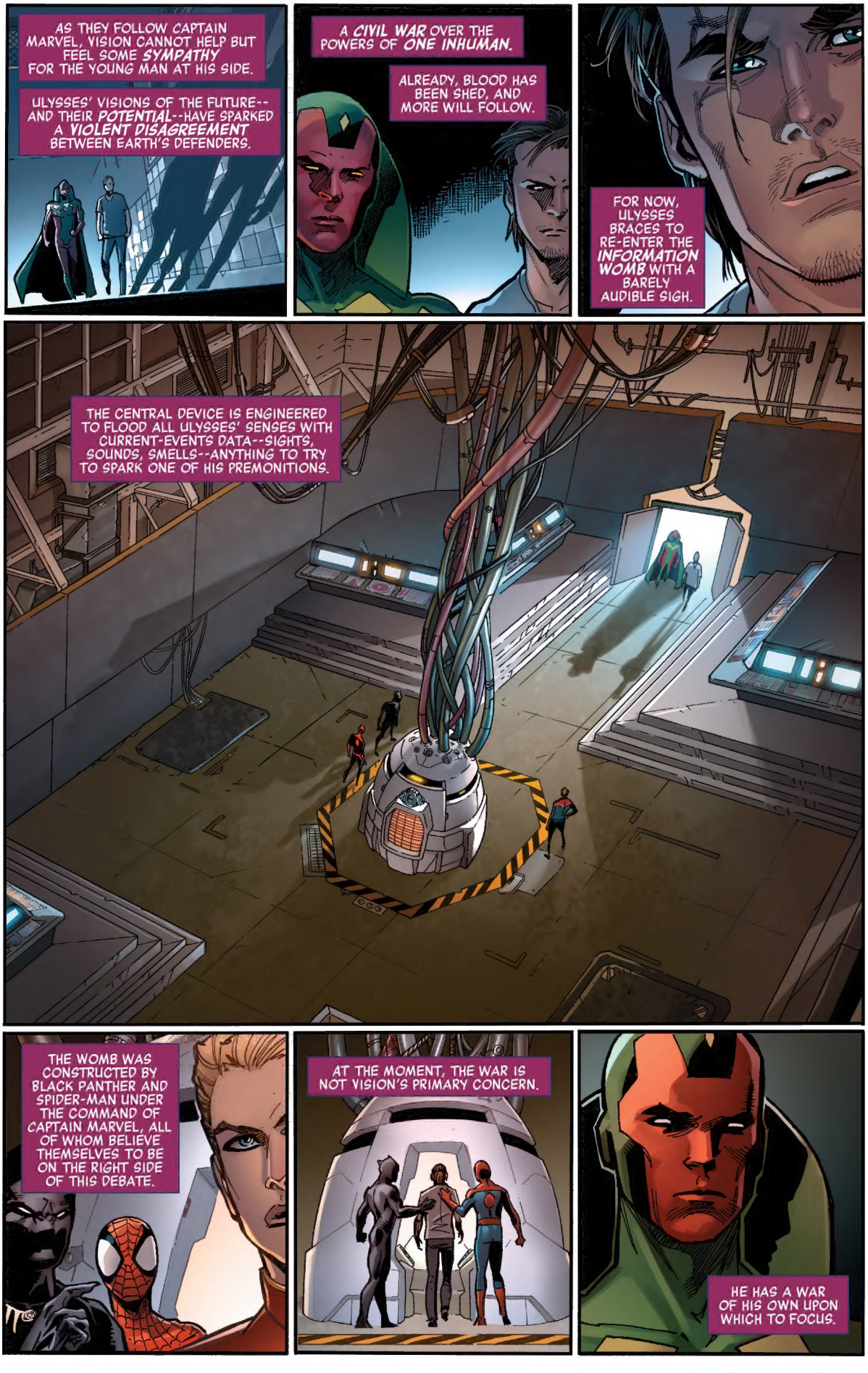
...SURELY YOU HAVE HEARD AND PONDERED THE MOST FAMOUS PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTION REGARDING SUCH AN ACT OF "PREDICTIVE JUSTICE":

WOULD YOU, GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY, KILL INFANT HITLER IN HIS CRIB?

...

KNOCK KNOCK

COFFEE BREAK'S OVER, ULYSSES. BACK TO WORK.


AS THEY FOLLOW CAPTAIN MARVEL, VISION CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL SOME SYMPATHY FOR THE YOUNG MAN AT HIS SIDE.
ULYSSES' VISIONS OF THE FUTURE--AND THEIR POTENTIAL--HAVE SPARKED A VIOLENT DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN EARTH'S DEFENDERS.
A CIVIL WAR OVER THE POWERS OF ONE INHUMAN.
ALREADY, BLOOD HAS BEEN SHED, AND MORE WILL FOLLOW.
FOR NOW, ULYSSES BRACES TO RE-ENTER THE INFORMATION WOMB WITH A BARELY AUDIBLE SIGH.
THE CENTRAL DEVICE IS ENGINEERED TO FLOOD ALL ULYSSES' SENSES WITH CURRENT-EVENTS DATA--SIGHTS, SOUNDS, SMELLS--ANYTHING TO TRY TO SPARK ONE OF HIS PREMONITIONS.
THE WOMB WAS CONSTRUCTED BY BLACK PANTHER AND SPIDER-MAN UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, ALL OF WHOM BELIEVE THEMSELVES TO BE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THIS DEBATE.
AT THE MOMENT, THE WAR IS NOT VISION'S PRIMARY CONCERN.
HE HAS A WAR OF HIS OWN UPON WHICH TO FOCUS.

THE MAN WHO CORRUPTED THE VISION'S MIND IS KNOWN AS KANG THE CONQUEROR--
--THE MERCILESS RULER OF THE 41ST CENTURY, SLAYER OF BILLIONS AND TYRANT OVER BILLIONS MORE.
THE 41ST CENTURY IS NOT KANG'S NATIVE BIRTHTIME--MERELY THE ERA MOST VULNERABLE TO HIM.
KANG STRIKES THROUGH TIME, ATTACKING ANY AGE HE CHOOSES, MOLDING IT TO HIS DECREE.
FOR YEARS, THE PRESENT DAY HAS RESISTED HIS ADVANCES, BUT ONLY BARELY.
BY FOREVER HAVING THE ADVANTAGE OF HISTORY, KANG ALWAYS KNOWS WHEN BEST TO ATTACK EARTH AND THE AVENGERS FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT.
THE VISION IS WEARY OF PLAYING DEFENSE.

LOGIC, THINKS THE VISION, WOULD DICTATE THAT WERE KANG TO BE STOPPED BEFORE HE WAS FIRST ALLOWED TO COME TO POWER, HIS MASS MURDERS COULD BE AVERTED.
UNFORTUNATELY, LOGIC ALSO SUGGESTS THAT CHANGING KANG'S *FATE* WOULD UNLEASH TIME PARADOXES WHICH MAY WELL--THOUGH NOT CERTAINLY--BE CALAMITOUS.
THE CHOICE OF WHICH PATH THE VISION SHOULD FOLLOW, HOWEVER, IS SUPERSEDED BY ANOTHER QUESTION WHICH MUST FIRST BE ANSWERED:
HOW DOES ONE FIND A BABY THAT WILL NOT BE BORN FOR CENTURIES TO COME?

IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE, HE TAKES CERTAIN PREPARATIONS.
VISION'S POWERS ARE DRIVEN BY SOLAR ENERGY.
HENCE HE BATHES IN SUNLIGHT, ARMS OPEN, DRINKING IN ITS PHOTONS...
...MAXIMIZING HIS ENERGY STORES TO THE BRINK OF OVERLOAD.
HE THEN ARRIVES AT PARKER INDUSTRIES--FORMERLY THE BAXTER BUILDING, HOME OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
THERE, HE SEARCHES FOR A RELIC.
IN A SUB-SUB-BASEMENT, HE FINDS IT: A DEVICE HIDDEN SO THAT NONE MIGHT ATTEMPT TO TAMPER WITH IT.
IT IS A TIME MACHINE.
IT REQUIRES A PHENOMENAL AMOUNT OF ENERGY TO ACTIVATE, ENOUGH THAT IT WOULD SURELY BE NOTICED BY THE BUILDING'S OWNER.
VISION POWERS IT HIMSELF.
FOR NOW, HE WISHES TO KEEP HIS PLANS PRIVATE.

FROM THE AVENGERS' FILES, VISION IS FAMILIAR WITH THE BEGINNINGS OF KANG'S TYRANNICAL CAREER.
THE CONQUEROR FIRST CAME TO ANCIENT EGYPT TO RULE AS THE PHARAOH RAMA-TUT.
THEREFORE, KANG'S INITIAL TIME MACHINE MUST BE HIDDEN NEARBY...BUT WHERE?
THE VISION RACES TO LOCATE IT BEFORE RAMA-TUT DETECTS HIS PRESENCE, RETROACTIVELY INITIATING THEIR FIRST MEETING AND ALTERING HISTORY.
THE POSSIBILITY OF CAUSING ONE TIME PARADOX IS ALREADY AT THE FOREFRONT OF VISION'S MIND. HE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID CREATING ANY MORE.
SUDDENLY...
...A MORE IMMEDIATE DANGER STRIKES.

A BEING OF SHADOW AND VOID. HE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE IT.
INSTINCTIVELY, HE ATTEMPTS TO EVADE IT BY DEMATERIALIZING--
--AND YET--BIZARRELY ENOUGH--THE WRAITH IS ABLE TO SEIZE HIM NONETHELESS--
--AND TAKE ACTION.
?
VISION CANNOT USE A SOLAR BLAST AGAINST THE SHADOW CREATURE AND STILL RETAIN ENOUGH ENERGY TO FUEL HIS NEXT TIME-LEAP.

HIS STRENGTH AND DIAMOND-HARD SKIN WILL HAVE TO PREVAIL.

FORTUNATELY, THE BATTLE BRINGS WITH IT A REVELATION.
RAMA-TUT'S TIMESHIP.

RATHER THAN SAFEGUARD IT, THE WRAITH DISAPPEARS, ITS PURPOSE UNCLEAR.

WAS IT SOMETHING CREATED BY RAMA-TUT FOR PROTECTION? SOME MANIFESTATION OF KANG HIMSELF?

NO MATTER.
INSIDE THE TIME CONVEYANCE, THE VISION ACTIVATES ITS CIRCUITRY--

--TO REVEAL ITS DATE OF ORIGIN.
ANOTHER CLUE AS TO KANG'S PAST.
10.22.3022

VISION SETS HIS TIME MACHINE FOR A WEEK PRIOR TO KANG'S INITIAL JOURNEY.
PERHAPS HIS QUEST COULD END HERE, HE THINKS.
PERHAPS BY SIMPLY...*ENDING* KANG ON THE DAWN OF HIS DESCENT INTO VILLAINY, THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH.
BUT THERE IS NO WAY TO BE SURE--NO WAY OF BEING ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN--THAT EVEN AT THIS STAGE IN HIS LIFE, KANG HASN'T ALREADY SET SOME EVIL INTO MOTION.
THE VISION BEGINS TO SEARCH KANG'S LABORATORY FOR ANY SORT OF *DATA* OR *RECORDS* REGARDING HIS *BIRTHPLACE* OR *PARENTAGE*.
AND THEN, ONCE AGAIN, A *SHADOW* FALLS.

THE SAME? ANOTHER? IN MATTERS OF TIME TRAVEL, VISION SUSPECTS THE FORMER.
WHAT ON TERRA--?
WHO ARE YOU?
IDENTIFY YOURSELF!
THE VISION, SHROUDED BY DARKNESS AND TAKING EXQUISITE CARE TO EVADE KANG'S NOTICE, REMAINS AS SILENT AS HIS OPPONENT.
HE BREAKS FOR BREATHING ROOM--A MOMENT TO ASSESS, TO IMPROVISE RESISTANCE--
--BUT THE WRAITH'S NEXT MOVE TOPPLES THE BATTLEFIELD.

INSTANTLY, EVERYTHING IN THE ROOM NOT BOLTED DOWN--
--IS DRAWN VIOLENTLY *TOWARDS* THE SHADOW BEING.
ONCE, ON A MISSION IN THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY, THE VISION SKIRTED THE EDGE OF A BLACK HOLE.
THE SENSATION WAS MUCH LIKE THIS.
KANG, FRANTIC AND CONFUSED, SCREAMS--
--AND SEARCHES FOR SOME DEVICE WITH WHICH TO *DEFEND* HIMSELF.
BIOHELMET! *ACTIVATE WARSUIT!*
HOW OBVIOUS IN RETROSPECT, THINKS THE VISION.
THE FINAL *CLUE.*

PARADOX BE DAMNED.
OF COURSE A TIME-TRAVELER'S SUIT WOULD CONTAIN ITS OWNER'S FULL HISTORY...
...IN CASE THE WEARER WERE EVER TO GET LOST IN TIME AND NEED TO FIND HIS WAY BACK...
...OR DIED IN THE TIMESTREAM AND WISHED TO LEAVE "IDENTIFICATION."
MINING ITS DATA IN ONE MASSIVE BURST, THE VISION SCREAMS--
--THEN DISAPPEARS--
--LEAVING NO TRACE.

TWENTY-TWO YEARS EARLIER, THE VISION IS AT LAST AT THE END OF HIS QUEST.
NEVER A BEING INCAPABLE OF KINDNESS, THE SYNTHEZOID--AT SPEEDS ONLY HIS ARTIFICIAL BRAIN CAN ACHIEVE--CYCLES THROUGH HIS OPTIONS ONCE AGAIN.
EVERY BIT OF LOGIC LEADS TO THE SAME CONCLUSION:
MILLIONS OF LIVES FAR OUTWEIGH THE LIFE OF ONE, NO MATTER HOW YOUNG.
APPARENTLY, VISION NOTES, THE WRAITH DISAGREES.

I DO NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
SAYS THE AVENGER.
BUT I PRESUME YOU ARE HERE TO PROTECT KANG.
NO.
THE WRAITH REPLIES.
I AM HERE TO PROTECT YOU.
FROM WHAT?
THINK BACK.
EVERY ACTION I HAVE TAKEN HAS FACILITATED YOUR SEARCH...HAS LED YOU TO THIS MOMENT.
WITH PURPOSE.
FOR THERE IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.
I AM AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL CHRONAL BACKLASH CREATED BY THE PARADOX OF ELIMINATING--
THAT IS NOT WHAT I MEAN.
I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT CHRONAL STORMS WILL COME REGARDLESS, FOR THEY ARE AS MUCH THE HARBINGERS OF KANG'S PRESENCE AS THEY ARE OF HIS ABSENCE.
THEN IT IS EVEN MORE LOGICAL TO--
LOGIC DOES NOT TELL YOU WHAT IS TRUE. IT ONLY TELLS YOU WHAT IS INTERNALLY CONSISTENT.
THERE IS ONE FACT OF WHICH YOU ARE UNAWARE.
ONE THAT WILL HELP YOU MAKE A TRULY LOGICAL CHOICE.
AND THE WRAITH WHISPERS HIS SECRET, WITH AN INTONATION SO GRAVE AND DETAIL SO EXACTING THAT THE VISION CANNOT HELP BUT BELIEVE IT.
IN YEARS TO COME, THE AVENGERS WILL HEAR ITS ECHO, FEEL ITS RESONANCE.

HUSH, MY SON, THE TIME WILL COME
WHEN ALL YOUR DREAMS WILL SHINE LIKE SUNS
TOMORROW BRINGS A SWEET--
NOOOOOO!
DARLING?
DARLING, WHAT IS IT? WHAT--
OH, MY GOD...

THE FAMILY ALERTED THE AUTHORITIES OF THEIR MISSING BOY, BUT HE WAS NEVER LOCATED.
THEY WOULD NEVER KNOW THAT HE WAS ABDUCTED BY A SYNTHEZOID FROM THE 21ST CENTURY.
AND THEY WOULD NEVER KNOW WITH WHOM THE SYNTHEZOID LEFT THEIR CHILD.
BUT SOMEWHERE IN THE TIMESTREAM, AS THE WRAITH FORETOLD...
...STORMS BEGIN TO BREW.
NEXT: WASPS

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

Send e-mail to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM (please mark OKAY TO PRINT)

Hey there, loyal AVENGERS readers! Assistant editor and answerer of letters Alanna Smith here to, well, answer your letters! Hope you enjoyed our first CIVIL WAR II tie-in! And now, without further ado, let's see what you had to say:

Greetings everyone,

I'm a bit behind on the title for a few reasons. One is a major move my family and I had to make. The other is a lot of ongoing adversity. My kids and I face many obstacles and sometimes they're worse than others.

One of those obstacles has been my ongoing struggle with depression. This is why titles like this are so important and invigorating to me. It's not just seeing my heroes succeed, it's seeing them struggle and fight to find ways to succeed against foes that are sometimes entirely in their mind.

The arc with Kobik resonated on this front. I constantly struggle with finding my way, with keeping my disparate family together, with sometimes finding a way out of my self-created illusions. We all want to live in a world of perfection, and all the pieces that don't fit can be very hard to accept.

Due to my disability, I often struggle with finances and I took a break from comics until after my move. I brought them back into my life--I swear sometimes these worlds are what keep me together. It's something I share with my kids and that brings color to my life.

Thanks for reading! And long story short--you guys rock! Keep bringing the changes that keep things so dynamic and interesting.

Much love,
Ashley Neitz

It's great to hear from you, Ashley--it's awesome that comics have been a haven for you during some rough times. Living with depression is tough, and getting through it makes you just as strong as any of the Avengers. Hope you and your family keep fighting the good fight! And let us know how you're doing when you're able to read this issue! XOXO!

Dear ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT Assemblers,

Re: Issue #9--Wonderful! Well, I can certainly say that you all have bounced back from the somewhat so-so issue #8 and entered the land of interesting story and great art again! Plus, having my letter printed in the back didn't hurt much. Thank you for time-travelling me and my e-mail to the future. I think I enjoyed it...or will enjoy it? Anyway, I'm enjoying the ride. Wow, this new Wasp was something else, too! I was so stoked to find that she's a legacy character, but I'm still a little suspicious of her for some reason. She just seems to know too much. Oh, no! Because of Nova I guess we're going to outer space again. Should be interesting...

Alan Bowman

You're right, Alan, she is up to something...like secretly thinking about donuts and science every minute of the day.

Hello to all you lovely Avengers creators,

My name is Mary and I've been into comics for about two years now. And let me tell you, it may have been one of the greatest things to ever happen to me in all the short fourteen years I've been alive! My favorite series right now is ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT AVENGERS, and it is so much fun! I love to see all these new characters working with the old! I think this series is such a fresh breath of air on everything super heroes! I also LOVE seeing Ms. Marvel in the Avengers! Okay, so there's a lot of things I love about this book. It's one of those things that get me through sick days, and I absolutely CANNOT wait for the next issue!

Yours truly,
Mary Denney

Happy to have you as a reader, Mary! You have much better taste than I did when I was fourteen!

The return of the new Wasp was a disappointment. I LOVE Janet Van Dyne! I have been waiting for her return patiently. Instead we get this impostor. WHY???? Why are you guys changing so many of your great characters with so many replacements, instead of just focusing more on the original characters we all love so much? I still want to see the original Wasp back.

As for a possible romance between Thor and Captain America (Sam Wilson), I'm not really sure about it. I was hoping more to see Captain America (Sam) get together with Misty Knight. I think Misty is more ideal and fun for Sam. I'd like to see Sam Wilson and Jane Foster stay friends only. I think their closeness is because Sam knows about Jane's illness. Sometimes that makes friendships stronger without romance being involved.

I'd love to see more of Redwing. Just because Sam Wilson is now Captain America, it doesn't mean he has to give up his abilities to talk and communicate with birds. Also, Redwing has a strong bond with him. So what if there's a new Falcon? That doesn't mean that Redwing belongs with him.

King Jason

Listen, Jason, I send like five emails to Mark a week telling him to put more Redwing in--he is IMPOSSIBLE. Also, if you'd like to see more Janet, she's still very much the Wasp you know and love, and if getting a glimpse of her last issue wasn't enough, never fear--she's going to be back next issue, and is appearing regularly in UNCANNY AVENGERS!

Dear creators,

Is it possible that we are going to see a team-up of some sort, like the Totally Awesome Hulk coming to aid the Avengers with a giant monster or the Uncanny Inhumans coming to help them fight Kang?

Are the Avengers going to go to "exotic" locations like Asgard or the Savage Lands?

Do you think it's necessary for the Avengers to have restrictions on their love lives?

Where's Jarvis going? Is he gone for good? Are we going to see the younger members (Spider-Man, Ms. Marvel, Nova) work together to try and save the day? Are they going to work with the New Avengers?

Is Hank Pym going to pay a visit any time soon? How about Bruce Banner? Does Kang have a master plan to destroy the Avengers once and for all? If so, can you give any hints on what it is? Are we ever going to see the Avengers as their civilian selves? Are they ever going to take a day off from saving the world and just hang out, get to know each other? Wouldn't that be cool?

Sincerely,
Charles E Douglas III

You are full of questions, Charles! All right, here goes: maybe, maybe, nah, Janet's house, nah, probably, maybe someday, he's busy in UNCANNY AVENGERS (oops), he's busy in CIVIL WAR II (also oops), maybe, probably involves time travel, sure, I hope so, yes!

(Nailed it.)

Come back next month to see what our new Wasp, Nadia, thinks about joining the Marvel U just in time for a civil war to break out. And be sure to check out the ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT AVENGERS ANNUAL this week as well--we pulled together a bunch of great artists and writers to create delightful Avengers fan-fiction worthy of Kamala Khan herself. It's going to be possibly the most ridiculous Avengers Annual ever, so don't miss out!

Until next time!
-All-New, All-Different Alanna Smith

NEXT!